

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

DARIUS REED.

The first White Child Born on the Site of the City of Chicago—Early Life in La Salle County.

[A variety of biographies beyond our control, have conspired to prevent the conclusion of our sketch of our esteemed old Brookfield neighbor, Darius Reed, but now we are free to conclude it, and follow with others of equal interest.]

At the conclusion of our first chapter on Mr. Reed, his father had returned to Ohio, and Darius was hence bound to Mr. James Galloway, living south of Marselles. We here insert Mr. Darius Reed's own account of some incidents in his life:—

A SHORT NARRATIVE OF DARIUS REED.

"We came from Ohio with the Hibbard family, eight of them in number. We stopped at Chicago, but they came on to the mouth of Fox river in 1827. Ottawa was then almost unknown. They settled on C & I creek. We remained in Chicago, then a swamp with two or three log houses around old Fort Dearborn, a block house on Chicago river, for some time, till my brother Levi was born, who was the first white child born in that city. Chicago was then a mere trading post, and Ottawa had but few inhabitants. A few days after the birth of my baby brother father and I left for Covel creek, following an Indian trail all the way to the mouth of Fox river. Having arrived here we sent back a team to Chicago for mother and the child. I remained here that winter and got my first schooling in the winter of 1828.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS.

"Mr. Covel had a corn mill on the creek south of Ottawa, which stream still bears his name. He used to grind corn for the farmers far and near. Among them was Louis Bailey, who gave his name to Bailey's Point. The latter was a joke and made fun of Covel's mill, calling its running gear a 'hen's nest.' That made Covel angry and he refused to grind any more corn for Bailey, and that gentleman's joke worked like a boomerang, for he had to fall back upon his old 'hominy block' again.

"In 1832, during the Sioux war, I lived with Archibald Clybourn in Chicago, but thinking him too hard a master I left him in 1833 and returned to my old master, Mr. Galloway. In the spring of 1836 I crossed the Illinois river at Marselles to get the mail in a little trapping canoe, a sort of an egg shell, and very difficult to keep right side up even in still water. Kimball had a saw mill at that point and I was above the dam. There was a break in it near the south shore, and of course the water rushed with tremendous force towards the opening. I crossed the river all right but coming back I got into the 'suck' and for my life could not get across it. There was a log which had got stuck on the bottom, one end out pointing up stream. I was going right straight against it. I put my paddle in the water, gave a surge back, missed the log, then I played my paddles, jumped the 'suck' and struck the up current which turned me as quickly as lightning could have done. There was no water running over the dam near the shore, so I came out monarch of all I surveyed.

"I lived with Thomas R. Covel the winter of 1828, mentioned previously. I had to work over half the time for my board, and went three miles to school. My clothes at that time were of the most durable material. Deer skin was the fashion then for pants, and 'wammuses' and 'shoe packs' were made of sole leather after the style of Indian moccasins. I had buckskin pants, vest and coat, and a coonskin cap with the hair on and the tail left on behind for a handle.

"Most people had their hominy blocks in those days, on which they pounded corn for 'pones' or 'johnny cake,' which when eaten eaten with fat pork gravy and washed down with sweet milk was the staple food of the country.

"Mr. Covel had a little mill which ran by water power on Covel creek, but it was so small that it could not grind much faster than a man could shell by hand."

As previously stated, after Mr. Reed, Sr. had bound out his children, Angel, Emeline and Darius, he returned to Ohio. From that day to this he has never been heard of by any of his children.

The Hibbard family, of whom Darius' stepmother was a member, drifted to Pekin and some of them afterward moved to Oregon.

Darius lived with Mr. Galloway a year or more until Mrs. Galloway died, then he went to Chicago, to his son-in-law, Mr. Clybourn, taking Darius with him. This was in 1830. The young bound boy not liking his new master, and Mr. Galloway having returned to Marselles, the young lad took French leave and ran away from Chicago. He was not legally bound to serve the Dr., but was the lawful apprentice of Mr. Galloway, and he concluded to serve him or nobody. Mr. Galloway, who was a good man, received the boy kindly and he got along nicely till 1836, when Mr. Galloway gave him his liberty and a small 'start for himself.'

Darius said he gadded about a spell, sowed a little 'wild oats,' got married in 1841 to Miss Mary H. Ford, whose father was Mr. Aaron Ford, of Hickory Point, on the south side. The Ford family came from Massachusetts to Saint Clair county, in this state, in 1822, and thence in 1834 to Hickory Point. Young Reed rented land at the 'Point' for three years. These were hard times in those days, and though

taxes was the only obligation one could not pay in coin or deer skins, and 'sitch,' yet it was almost impossible for them to get money enough for that purpose. The early settler worked hard and his fare was coarse. After an exhaustive day's labor tired and hungry, he frequently had to pound corn for his mush for supper. As an improvement on the hominy block, some one improvised a rude mill consisting of stones, one of which revolved upon another, upon the head of a flour barrel. It was located at the springs north of Reed's and for a time was well patronized, until Mr. Green built a mill on a large scale and got custom enough to afford grinding at figures within the reach of the poorest settler, and then the hominy block was abandoned.

EARLY SETTLERS.

In the days when Mr. Reed and his father waded through the tall grass along the Indian trail between Chicago and the mouth of Fox river, there was no Joliet, no Morris and no Marselles, and Ottawa was just beginning to be, and that was a house or two on the south bluffs. The first settler in Marselles was probably William Ritchie. Next came Lovell Kimball, an active and intelligent business man. Then came the Harringtons, Simmons and Ed. Hays. The earliest denizens of west Brookfield were Dr. Graham, who was the partner of the celebrated Dr. Mott, of New York City, and a doctor of rare skill. He had grown old and to escape practice, finding that he could not retire if he would in Gotham, gathered up as much of his money as he could and entered a large tract of land in Brookfield where he lived comfortably many years. He was a well-read, bluff, kind and eccentric old gentleman, and in spite of his desire to quit medicine and enjoy his 'solium cum dignitate sua potius' as he paraphrased the familiar Latin of 'worth, ease and dignity.' The neighbors soon discovered that he was really and truly a 'big medicine man' of splendid skill, and so, in spite of himself he received frequent calls at all times and in all seasons, and the old doctor's kindness of heart invariably got away with his wishes in the premises. An old lady who was his next neighbor, as soon as she found he was a celebrated physician, at once became affected with his numerous to mention, and the doctor's services were hourly in requisition. The old gentleman, exasperated at her foolishness, called frequently, made a grand ado of mixing up pills she was to take in doses of one in every fifteen minutes for 48 hours, and left predicting her complete recovery at the expiration of that time. She took the medicine, got well, boasted of the doctor's triumph and was paralyzed on hearing from the doctor that the pills were simply made of bread. She did not employ him again.

Besides these settlers were the Jennings, Siglers, Lawless, Gages, and in the east of the town the Dudleys, Drains, Moxson and Armstrong.

Of the settlers who were there when Mr. Reed reached Ottawa, who are now living are Lewis Long, Jerry Pembroke and himself. Mr. Kimball's saw mill was built in 1834. Mr. Reed helped to raise his grist mill at Marselles, in 1836, and soon after both burned down. To Mr. and Mrs. Reed were born two children, Mary (dead) and Emeline, her father's housekeeper, her mother being dead several years. Mr. Reed weighs 265 pounds, is in excellent health, and good circumstances, and enjoys his old days and never misses an old settler's picnic. J. G. ARMSTRONG.

On Sunday afternoon, a man, employed in the LaChapelle works, chartered a rig at Peter Evans, and started out for a ride. Meeting a friend named Farrell, they drove over on the east side. Farrell was intoxicated and assumed control of the horse, abusing it shamefully. A gentleman, near whose house the affair occurred, telephoned Mr. Egan, and his son and a man from the barn were sent over after the rig. After chasing the men around the east side some time, they were stopped, and the boy got into the buggy with the intention of driving it home. The men were enraged, and attempted to throw him out, when the gentleman and a friend came to his assistance. The horse was unhitched, leaving the men seated in the conveyance. In the middle of the road, the horse taken into the gentleman's barn. Then came the exciting part of the matter. Farrell, having, in his intoxication, an idea that he was a great pugilist, went upon the steps of the gentleman's house, when he was about to telephone for the police, and used the foulest language he could command toward him and his friend. The gentleman became provoked, and upon Farrell's refusal to go away, struck him a terrible blow on the side of the head with a heavy cane, cutting his scalp. He was sober in an instant and took leg bail.

Thomas McCann, a stone mason, whose home was in Morris, was found burned to death on the road leading to La Salle early on Monday morning. He had been drinking heavily, and when his intoxication became so far advanced as to preclude locomotion, he had lain down in the road and gone to sleep, while his cigar set his clothing on fire. He had slowly roasted to death, while a large hole was burned into his chest. Coroner Clendenen held an inquest over the remains, and a verdict sustaining the facts was rendered.

"Buffalo Bill," alias Hon. W. F. Cody, received a thousand dollars per year when he served in the army, but now as proprietor of the 'Wild West' show, and the lion of England, he is heard to complain of ill luck if his profits do not reach one thousand dollars per day. 'Bill' is becoming rich on the snobs of the British Islands.

The condemnation suit of the C. B. & Q. R. R. against Park Reed, who owns lot 5 in block 82, in the way of the proposed double track and switch yards, was commenced on Monday afternoon, before Judge Snyder. Park wanted \$1,500 for his place and the Burlington people offered \$2,500. Park swore that the road wanted him to pay for the consolation of having it use his property, while Richardson for the road, got an idea from Park's figures that the road would be expected to convey the moon with a red fence around it, to Park, in consideration for that house and lot. The jury are: Basil Green, Chas. Simmons, Michael Woodcock and Chas. Angeline of Dayton; W. S. Trumbo, W. R. Lewis and H. E. Poundstone, of Grand Rapids; Dan'l Horney, of Rutland; Ed. McGuire, of La Salle; Alf. Bernard, of Seneca; Jas. Holman, of Deer Park, and J. W. Stephenson, of Otter Creek.

The witnesses for the plaintiff, nineteen in all, testified that they considered the property worth all the way from \$1,300 to \$2,500; but the greater number thought \$1,500 a fair price. The witnesses for the defense testified that the property was worth from \$2,500 to \$3,500. There were about 20 of them, and they made quite an imposing appearance. The jury, after viewing the premises, allowed Mr. Reed \$2,000.

The 37th quarterly convention of the Total Abstinence Union, of La Salle, Putnam, Grundy, Kendall, Marshall and Livingston counties, at Wenona, Marshall county, Ill., on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17 and 18, commencing at 2 p. m. Each temperance society and church is entitled to send two delegates besides its presiding officer, who is ex-officio a delegate. Credentials of delegates should be forwarded as early as possible to Mrs. W. Hamilton, at Wenona, Ill.

Thieves entered the high school building at Kankakee, Thursday night, and stole all the clocks, dictionaries, etc., the value of the same being about \$40. They also entered the Catholic church and carried away \$50 worth of property. The M. E. church also suffered to the amount of \$10 worth of stationery, a silver baptismal bowl, and a birthday offering box containing about \$15, were taken, as was also a valuable fishing outfit belonging to the minister.

A bicyclist caused a very serious runaway at Joliet, the other day. A horse became frightened at the machine and upsetting the vehicle to which it was attached, threw two ladies out, injuring one of them badly.

Robert Stephenson, an employee of the Streater Coke Works, met his death beneath the wheels of a Burlington train at six o'clock on Monday evening. The track was torn up and three or four cars thrown off the track. His remains were horribly mangled and were found scattered along the track. He was to be married in a day or two.

The La Salle Republican says: "La Salle has more diphtheria every day, so it seems. They have it in Tonica, too, it seems, and badly, but that don't make things any better for La Salle. A couple of scarlet fever cases are reported also. As an ally to diphtheria scarlet fever is just the thing. The Board of Education very wisely have closed all the public schools, while by request of the Health Officer the private schools have been closed also. The Sunday Schools however, have not been ordered closed as far as known, though diphtheria is very close in some quarters. The educational department of this municipality is now suspended, and awaiting restoration at the pleasure of the government toward providing something like the common sanitary regulations of civilized humanity. This is one of the cases where the iniquities of the fathers are visited upon the children."

Sporting Notes.

Guileless Bobbles, patient warders of the Haymarket and Strand. As you value bones unbroken, never lay on him a hand. For he strikes out like the lightning, and his soul is full of sand. And you wouldn't find it pleasant to have your skulls trepanned; Room for Boston's new Lord Mayor, place for Sullivan the Grand! The unlicked and all-unlikable son and pride of Yankee land. Ocean hoary, heavy slugger, be thy waves as soft as wool. For John Sullivan goes over firm resolved to slug John Bull. And he'll do it since he's promised for twelve months not to be 'full.' —N. Y. Sun.

America's greatest slugger, John L. Sullivan, sailed for England on the 27th day of October, with the avowed intention of making his fortune knocking the heads off Jem Smith and other English sluggers, and casting upon himself a whole green-house full of bouquets. He says he will knock seven kinds of stars from Charley Mitchell's eyes, and place \$1,000 up for any man in the world to stand up before him four rounds. This is what America has been panting for for several years. Kilrain is making money in England, and Sullivan has started up his menagerie and will rake in the British gold by the bucketfuls. Now, will some of the American money carried off by Charley Mitchell et al be returned with interest.

Jake Kilrain is matched to meet Jem Smith, the champion of England, in December for \$2,500 a side. It will occur on the other side of the water, and is announced for Madrid, Spain. A great fight, and sports from all over the world will journey to see it.

Billy Meyer, who whacked the sawdust out of Harry Gilmore, near Minneapolis, in September, has won quite a reputation by

the feat. He will again face Gilmore in the near future for \$1,000 a side in this state. Billy is on the straight road that leads to championship.

Jack McAuliffe has had the temerity to say that Billy did not knock Gilmore out fairly. Billy now challenges McAuliffe to fight midway between Streator and New York, for \$1,500 to \$2,500 per side.

Jack Dempsey who made such a bustle on his debut, will fight Denny Kellier, the Quincy middle-weight, in about three weeks. The purse will be \$1,000.

Hand ball playing, the Irish National Game, is coming to the front, and courts have been established in all the large cities. Phil Casey of Brooklyn, is the champion player of America, and John Lawlor, champion of Great Britain and Ireland, is to play a match with him on the 23d ult., for \$2,000 and the champion of the world, at New York city.

William Besch, champion single scull of Australia, and Edward Haulon, the famous American sculler, will row for \$5,000 and the championship of the world, on the 26th ult.

Gus Sunstrone and John Robinson, the champion fancy swimmer, propose a contest of six days, either in New York or Boston.

Tom Connors, the champion catch-as-catch-can wrestler, is about to make a match with Lewis, known as the 'strangler.' If at all, it will occur outside of Chicago.

Ed. J. Cuse of Hamilton, Ont., has defeated James Grant of Cambridge, Mass., and wrestled from him the three-mile running championship of the world. Grant's record was 15 min. 10 1/2 seconds, and Cuse lowered it 19 1/2 seconds to 14 min. 51 seconds. The race was for \$500 per side.

The two-mile single scull race between John Teemer and Jacob Grandaur, for \$2,000 and the championship of America, was rowed on Friday morning, Oct. 27th, having been postponed a day on account of rough water. Teemer won by about 14 lengths, in 20 min. 28 1/2 seconds. Not over \$3,000 changed hands on the result.

Harry Bethune has been beaten by an unknown—Jack Gibson—in a 100 yard race at Ottawa, Can. Over \$30,000 was staked on the match, and Bethune's backers were furious. The time was fast—9 1/2 seconds.

J. W. Gray left Chicago on June 13, on a bicycle, travelled leisurely, visited places of interest on the way, and arrived at San Francisco about two weeks ago. He is the third to accomplish the feat.

One of the most amusing things for outsiders, is the spectacle of gentlemen's clubs in the east being taken in by hippodrome fighters. Good purses are offered, and the pugilists, by careful preparation, manage to delude the clubs into believing they have seen a fight, and carry off the cash.

The Athletic Club, of Philadelphia, has been sold by Messrs. Scharitz, Simmons & Mason, to a stock company for \$50,000. This base ball club was organized in 1865. It won the championship of America in 1871. Anson of Chicago, was at one time a member of it, and left it in 1876, when it went under. It was reorganized, however, and joined the American Association.

No league ball players have signed as yet. The reasons are, that the clubs do not wish to advance money, and that the players do not wish to sign present contracts. There is a well founded rumor that Clarkson will play with Boston next year.

Public Statement.

TUNNEL, HAMILTON Co., Iowa, }
July 19, 1887. }

Editor Freeman: We think it no more than justice that we should make a public statement of the work we know Dr. Mrs. Keck to have done in our family. The health of our son Frank began to break down gradually. He is fifteen years of age. His kidneys began troubling him six years ago, and kept getting worse, until last winter he got so that at times he could scarcely pass any urine, and it would be over half a thick reddish sediment, looking like meat. He suffered greatly with his back aching. His lungs became affected and he coughed very hard, raising great quantities of heavy green pus. He rapidly grew worse until he was confined to his bed, being very thin in flesh, weighing only about one hundred pounds, and having heavy night sweats. He suffered very much with pains through his lungs and his liver was affected. He would cough almost constantly, evenings and mornings, and in fact a great deal all the time, raising more than a quart of green pus in twenty-four hours. He had a spell of pneumonia which left him in the above condition, and his case was pronounced quick consumption. We now decided that as our home doctors did not help him we had better have other assistance. Not thinking it safe to wait six weeks longer for the return of Mrs. Dr. Keck to Webster City, we wrote to her. After our giving her every symptom and sending her a bottle of the matter he coughed up, and a bottle of pneumonia which left him in the above condition, and his case was pronounced quick consumption. We now decided that as our home doctors did not help him we had better have other assistance. Not thinking it safe to wait six weeks longer for the return of Mrs. Dr. Keck to Webster City, we wrote to her. After our giving her every symptom and sending her a bottle of the matter he coughed up, and a bottle of pneumonia which left him in the above condition, and his case was pronounced quick consumption. 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